

Amendments to the Claims

1 -10. Cancelled.

11. (Currently amended) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor for a dongle, said method comprising:

storing ~~in a file~~ on a first computer to which a first dongle is connected via an interface parameters associated with ~~an~~ a plurality of authorization codes stored on the first dongle, but not storing ~~in the file on the first computer~~ the authorization codes, the plurality of authorization codes being associated with at least two different licensors;

sending the parameters to a central management computer, the central management computer being adapted for sending parameters associated with a first licensor of the at least two licensors only to a second computer associated with the first licensor and not sending to the second computer parameters associated with any of the other of the at least two licensors ~~second computer;~~

after sending the parameters, receiving a restored authorization code at the first computer in a format that can be interpreted only by the dongle and not by the first computer; and

storing the restored authorization code in a second dongle connected to the first computer.

12. Cancelled.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the parameters are signed with time information for protection and are stored at least partially in encrypted form ~~in the file~~.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:

receiving ~~from the first computer~~ the parameters at the second computer;
evaluating the parameters; and
deciding with the second computer whether or not to return to the first computer the restored authorization code.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 13, wherein the parameters include time information, the method further comprising:

communicating time information ~~stored in the file~~ from the first computer to the second computer;
evaluating the time information at the second computer; and
generating the restored authorization code based on the time information.

16. Cancelled.

17. Cancelled.

18. Cancelled.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11 ~~18~~, further comprising:

establishing a remote data connection between the first computer and the second computer for communicating the restored authorization code from the second computer to the first computer.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, ~~characterized wherein the parameters are stored in a~~ in that the file that contains an unmodifiable serial number of the dongle and said method further comprising:

reading the serial number from the file;

sending the serial number to ~~a~~ the central management computer; and

storing the serial number in a block list at the central management computer.

21-31. Cancelled.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the authorization code is storable only on the access-protected data processing device.

33. Cancelled.

34. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium, excluding signals, storing instructions that, when read by a computer, cause the computer to execute a process for restoring ~~an~~ authorization codes assigned to a licensee by a plurality of licensors for a replacement dongle, the method comprising:

storing on a first computer, to which is connected an original dongle containing original authorization codes associated with a plurality of different licensors ~~reading of license parameters from a file stored on a first computer and associated with, but not containing, an~~ the original authorization codes assigned to the licensee by the licensee for the dongle, the file being stored on the computer of the licensee;

sending with the first computer the read license parameters to a central management computer, the central management computer being adapted for receiving the parameters and for sending only parameters associated with a first of the at least two licensors to a second computer associated with the first licensor and not sending to the second computer parameters associated with any of the other of the at least two licensors ~~computer of licensor;~~

receiving with the first computer a restored authorization code sent by the first licensor in a format that can be interpreted by the dongle but not by the computer of the licensee; and

storing the restored authorization code on ~~the~~ a replacement dongle connected to the first computer in the format.

35. Cancelled.

36. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the license parameters are signed with time information for protection and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the file.

37. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the process further comprises sending time information stored with the parameters. ~~in the file to the computer of the licensor.~~

38. Cancelled.

39. Cancelled.

40. Cancelled.

41. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein sending with the first computer the read license parameters further comprises:
establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a computer of the licensor.

42. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the ~~data processing device~~ dongle and said process further comprises:

reading the serial number from the file; and
sending the serial number to a management computer.

43. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
reading parameters from a first dongle, which is connected via an interface to a first computer used by a licensee and ~~storing an~~ stores a plurality of original authorization codes from different ones of a plurality of licensors, ~~parameters~~

~~associated with a licenses each of the parameters being associated with one of the plurality of authorization codes and one of the plurality of~~ from the licensors to the licensee;

storing on the first computer the parameters read from a first dongle;

upon the dongle becoming lost or defective, sending the parameters to a central management computer, the central management computer being adapted for receiving the parameters and for sending parameters associated with authorization codes of a first of the at least two licensors only to a second computer associated with the first licensor and not sending to the second computer parameters associated with authorization codes of any of the other of the at least two licensors ~~second computer;~~

after sending the license parameters, receiving a restored authorization code from the first licensor at the first computer in a format that can be interpreted only by a replacement dongle and not by the first computer; and

storing the restored authorization code on a replacement dongle connected to the first computer.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the original authorization code is not stored in the file.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the parameters are signed with time information and are stored at least partially in encrypted form in the file.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the parameters are stored in an encrypted form.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the parameters are associated with first dongle and the original authorization code stored by the first dongle.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43 further comprising:
receiving at the second computer ~~the~~ parameters from the central management computer ~~first computer~~;
evaluating the parameters;
deciding with the second computer whether or not to restore an authorization code based on the evaluation of the parameters; and
generating the restored authorization code based on the parameters and returning to the first computer the restored authorization code if it is decided to restore an authorization code, and otherwise not returning an authorization code.

49. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 43, wherein the parameters include time information; and wherein ~~the method further comprises:~~
~~communicating time information from the first computer to the second computer;~~
~~evaluating the time information at the second computer; and~~
~~generating~~ the restored authorization code has been generated based on the time information.

50. Cancelled.

51. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 43, further comprising storing on the first computer an unmodifiable serial number of the first dongle, sending the unmodifiable serial number from the first computer to ~~[[a]]~~ the central management computer, and storing the unmodifiable serial number in a block list at the central management computer.

52. Canceled.

53. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium, excluding signals, storing instructions that, when read by a computer, cause the computer to execute a process for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor for a dongle, the method comprising:

reading parameters from a first dongle, which is connected via an interface to a first computer used by a licensee and stores a plurality of ~~storing an~~ original authorization codes from different ones of a plurality of licensors, parameters, each of the parameters being associated with one of the plurality of authorization codes and one of the plurality of licensors ~~associated with a license from the licensor to the licensee;~~

storing on the first computer the parameters read from a first dongle;

upon the dongle becoming lost or defective, sending the parameters to ~~a second computer~~ a central management computer, the central management computer being adapted for receiving the parameters and for sending parameters associated with authorization codes of a first of the at least two licensors only to a second computer associated with the first licensor and not sending to the second computer parameters associated with authorization codes of any of the other of the at least two licensors ;

after sending the license parameters, receiving from the first licensor a restored authorization code at the first computer in a format that can be interpreted only by a replacement dongle and not by the first computer; and

storing the restored authorization code on a replacement dongle connected to the first computer.

54. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the original authorization code is not stored in the file.

55. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters are signed with time information and are stored at least partially in encrypted form in the file.

56. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters are stored in an encrypted form.

57. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters are associated with first dongle and the original authorization codes stored by the first dongle.

58. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving at the second computer ~~the~~ parameters from the central management computer~~first computer~~;

evaluating the parameters;

deciding with the second computer whether or not to restore an authorization code based on the evaluation of the parameters; and

generating the restored authorization code based on the parameters and returning to the first computer the restored authorization code if it is decided to restore an authorization code, and otherwise not returning an authorization code.

59. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters include time information; and wherein ~~the method further comprises:~~

~~communicating time information from the first computer to the second computer;~~

~~evaluating the time information at the second computer; and~~

~~generating~~ the restored authorization code is generated based on the time information.

60. Cancelled.

61. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the method further comprises storing on the first computer an unmodifiable serial number of the first dongle, sending the unmodifiable serial number from the first computer to ~~[[a]]~~ the central management computer, and storing the unmodifiable serial number in a block list at the central management computer.